

In the Claims:

1. **(currently amended):** A pigment whose particles have a length of from 2  $\mu\text{m}$  to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ , a width of from 2  $\mu\text{m}$  to 2  $\mu\text{m}$  and a thickness of from 50 nm to 1.5  $\mu\text{m}$  and a ratio of length to thickness of at least 2 : 1, the particles having a core of a metallically reflecting material having two substantially parallel faces, the distance between which is the shortest axis of the core, comprising
  - (a), optionally, on one parallel face of the core, an  $\text{SiO}_y$  layer wherein  $0.95 < y \leq 2.0$ , ~~especially  $0.95 < y \leq 1.80$ ,~~
  - (b), on one parallel face of the core or, if an  $\text{SiO}_y$  layer is present, on the  $\text{SiO}_y$  layer, an  $\text{SiO}_x$  layer wherein  $0.03 \leq x \leq 0.95$ , ~~especially  $0.05 \leq x \leq 0.5$ , very especially  $0.10 \leq x \leq 0.30$ , and~~
  - (c), on the  $\text{SiO}_x$  layer, an  $\text{SiO}_z$  layer, wherein  $0.95 < z \leq 2.0$ , ~~especially  $1.0 \leq z \leq 2.0$ .~~
2. **(currently amended):** A pigment according to claim 1, comprising
  - (a), optionally, on one parallel face of the core, an  $\text{SiO}_y$  layer, wherein  $0.95 < y \leq 1.80$ , ~~especially  $1.0 \leq y \leq 1.80$ , very especially  $1.40 \leq y \leq 1.80$ ,~~
  - (b), on one parallel face of the core or, if an  $\text{SiO}_y$  layer is present, on the  $\text{SiO}_y$  layer, an  $\text{SiO}_x$  layer wherein  $0.03 \leq x \leq 0.95$ , ~~especially  $0.05 \leq x \leq 0.5$ , very especially  $0.10 \leq x \leq 0.30$ , and~~
  - (c), on the  $\text{SiO}_x$  layer, an  $\text{SiO}_z$  layer, wherein  $1.0 < z \leq 2.0$ , ~~especially  $1.4 \leq z \leq 2.0$ , very especially  $z = 2.0$ .~~
3. **(currently amended):** A pigment according to ~~either claim 1 or claim 2~~, wherein the metallically reflecting material is selected from Ag, Al, Au, Cu, Cr, Ge, Mo, Ni, Ti, Zn, alloys thereof, graphite,  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{MoS}_2$ .
4. **(currently amended):** A pigment according to claim 3, wherein the thickness of the core is from 20 to 100 nm, ~~preferably from 40 to 60 nm.~~
5. **(currently amended):** A pigment according to ~~any one of claim~~ ~~[[s]] 1 to 4~~, wherein the thickness of the  $\text{SiO}_x$  layer (b) is from 5 to 200 nm, ~~preferably from 5 to 100 nm.~~
6. **(currently amended):** A pigment according to ~~any one of claim~~ ~~[[s]] 1 to 5~~, wherein the thickness of the  $\text{SiO}_y$  layer (a) is from 20 to 500 nm, ~~preferably from 100 to 500 nm.~~

7. **(currently amended):** A method for producing the pigment according to claim 1, comprising the following steps:
- a) vapour-deposition of a separating agent onto a carrier to produce a separating agent layer,
  - b) vapour-deposition of an Al layer onto the separating agent layer,
  - c) optionally, vapour-deposition of an SiO<sub>y</sub> layer onto the Al layer,
  - d) vapour-deposition of an SiO<sub>x</sub> layer onto the Al layer or, if present, onto the SiO<sub>y</sub> layer, wherein  
 $0.95 \leq y \leq 1.80$ , ~~especially  $1.0 \leq y \leq 1.80$ , very especially  $1.1 \leq y \leq 1.50$ ,~~
  - e) optionally, vapour-deposition of an SiO<sub>y</sub> layer onto the SiO<sub>x</sub> layer,
  - f) dissolution of the separating agent layer in a solvent,
  - g) separation of the SiO<sub>x</sub>-coated aluminium flakes from the solvent.
8. **(currently amended):** A pigment ~~obtainable~~ obtained by the method of claim 7.
9. **(currently amended):** A composition comprising a pigment according to ~~any one of claim~~ any one of claim ~~[[s]] 1, to 6, or 8.~~
10. **(currently amended):** ~~The use of a pigment according to any one of claims 1 to 6, or 8 in A paint~~ [[s]], textile [[s]], ink-jet printing, cosmetic[[s]], coating compositions, plastic [[s]], or printing ink [[s]] composition or a -and-in-glaze [[s]] for ceramics and glass comprising a pigment according to claim 1.
11. **(new):** A pigment according to claim 1, wherein  $0.05 \leq x \leq 0.5$ .
12. **(new):** A pigment according to claim 2, wherein  $1.0 \leq y \leq 1.80$ , and  $1.4 \leq z \leq 2.0$ .
13. **(new):** A pigment according to claim 3, wherein the thickness of the core is from 40 to 60 nm.
14. **(new):** A pigment according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the SiO<sub>x</sub> layer (b) is from 5 to 100 nm.
15. **(new):** A pigment according to claim 4, wherein the thickness of the SiO<sub>x</sub> layer (b) is from 5 to 200 nm.

16. **(new)**: A pigment according claim 1, wherein the thickness of the SiO<sub>y</sub> layer (a) is from 100 to 500
17. **(new)**: A pigment according claim 4, wherein the thickness of the SiO<sub>y</sub> layer (a) is from 20 to 500 nm.
18. **(new)**: A pigment according claim 5, wherein the thickness of the SiO<sub>y</sub> layer (a) is from 20 to 500 nm.
19. **(new)**: A method according to claim 7, wherein  $1.0 \leq y \leq 1.80$ .
20. **(new)**: A paint, textile, ink-jet printing, cosmetic, coating or plastic, or printing ink composition or a glaze for ceramics and glass comprising a pigment according to claim 3.